

DECIDE TO BELIEVE

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Our 5 physical senses don't allow us to relate to the Spiritual realm. We need the Eye of Faith.

Faith is our part ... where we reach out and take what God has given us.

Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, **"The just shall live by faith."**

See also: Hab 2:4; Gal 3:11 and Heb 10:38.

Hebrews 11:6

But **without faith it is impossible to please Him,** for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Put some effort into it!!! Or are we too engrossed in our worldly pursuits?)

God isn't going to ask us to do something that's impossible. He expects us to have faith ... to live by faith. He wants us to be pleasing to Him. Not just rely on our physical senses ... our logic ... our super reasoning skills.

2 Corinthians 5:7

For **we walk by faith, not by sight.**

We are not influenced by things around us ... we choose to conduct our lives by faith.

A definition of faith: Hebrews 11:1 Now **faith is** the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Things not YET seen!! We

can't detect them with our five physical senses ... it doesn't mean that they are not real fact).

Our faith is not designed to move God .. God does not need to move. Faith is for us to reach out and take what God has provided.

Matthew 7:7-11

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

God is not far off in the Universe. Ask ... believing ... and you will receive.

Matthew 8:1-4

When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

Then **Jesus** put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." (There were 3 miracles that the rabbis taught that would reveal the Messiah ... and this is one of them. The priests had never had to carry out the various sacrifices. This was a testimony to them ... only The Messiah would be able to cleanse a leper. Another one was casting out a demon out of a mute, dumb spirit ... unless you were The Messiah ... this couldn't happen. And the other one was ... to restore the sight of anyone born blind. Only The Messiah could do that ... and Jesus did ... and they still ignored Him).

Of course, what Jesus did ... the Father does.

If we want to know God's will ... we have to look at what GOD SAYS!!
Don't rely on certain Church of God websites ... or peoples traditions.

Romans 10:17

So then **faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

Faith comes by hearing and hearing and hearing and hearing and hearing ...
AND HEARING THE WORD OF GOD. Not the opinions of scientists or other
church brethren. Faith is hearing ... continuous sense.

1 John 5:14-15

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. (By faith ... not literally that second in our hands)

God's Word tells us His will. Do we know ... and do we know that we know God's Word?? We have to "get our noses into God's Word!!" It's live ... dynamic!! How much QUALITY time per week do we spend in God's Word? There's no shortcut ... no easy option.

James 1:5-8

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. **But let him ask in faith, with no doubting,** (We have to be fixed ... single minded.

Doubting ... Greek ... Diakrino ...of two opinions) for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

We have to make a decision ... we have to decide to believe. Doubt and go without ... Believe and receive.

Romans 4:18-22

who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. (ABRAHAM DIDN'T LOOK AT HIS PSYCHICAL SENSES) ... He did not waver (DIAKRINO ... DOUBT) at the promise of God through unbelief, **but was strengthened in faith**, giving glory to God, and **being fully convinced** (no doubting) that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."

We need to be like ABRAHAM ... fully convinced. Don't look at the things which are seen ... but at things which aren't seen. We can't be fully persuaded until we know God's Word. It's simple ... but not easy!!

Romans 8:5-6

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but **those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally (NATURALLY) minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**

Romans 8:8

So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 3:3-4

For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not! Indeed, **let God be true but every man a liar.** (THAT INCLUDES ME ... AND YOU) As it is written:

"That You may be justified in Your words,
And may overcome when You are judged."

God cannot lie. If God says something ... that's the way it is!!

1 John 5:4

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And **this is the victory (NIKE ... GREEK ... CONQUEROR) that has overcome the world—OUR faith.** (Victory over the world!!)

Very often there is a choice to be made.

Luke 5:1-10

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, (Sea of Galilee) and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; **nevertheless at Your word** I will let down the net." (Peter had a decision to make. Thankfully, he made the right decision. We have the same choice!!) And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men."

We can say the same as Peter ... "NEVERTHELESS AT THEIR WORD". That is the key!!

Let's look at another situation. Only one person received healing ... even though the power of the Lord was there "TO HEAL THEM".

Luke 5:17-26

Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And **the power of the Lord was present to heal them.** Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralysed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.

When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

And the scribes **and the Pharisees began to reason, (they are not going to listen to Jesus ... they reasoned themselves out of healing)** saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the man who was paralysed, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!"

We have to watch in our lives. It takes us time to learn to walk by faith and not by sight.

We may start out in faith ... and then there's a decision to be made. Consider the following:

Mark 5:22-24

And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet and begged Him earnestly, saying,

“My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live.” So Jesus went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him.

Mark 5:35-42

While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?”

As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, **“Do not be afraid; only believe.”** And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. When He came in, He said to them, “Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping.”

And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying. Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, “Talitha, cumi,” which is translated, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement.

We usually don't have a faith problem ... WE HAVE A WORD PROBLEM.